

CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 September 1980

Dear Jim

When we met on 21 July you put forward the name of Fred Mulley as a possible candidate to succeed Roy Jenkins at the turn of the year as one of this country's two European Commissioners. I promised to reflect on your suggestion and to let you know privately what conclusion I came to.

I doubt whether Fred Mulley is the most suitable person we could find for this important job, particularly now that there is bound to be a question mark over his health. As you know, I was attracted to the idea that Joel Barnett might do it, but you told me that he had said that he did not want to be considered for it, though you thought that in certain circumstances he might be persuaded to let his name go forward.

Since our talk Joel and Michael Jopling, who knows him well, have had an entirely private word, and Joel now seems more interested in the appointment than perhaps he was earlier. Provided you have no objections, I would now like to sound him out rather more formally.

signed

MT

The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, M.P.

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